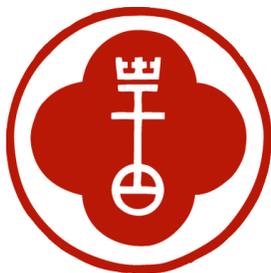


Our Religion is Kindness



Mission Spending Plan 2019

Grace United Church of Christ
25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20: 35

Our Religion is Kindness!

Dear Friends,

I had a bumper sticker on my car with a quote from the Dalai Lama that simply read “My Religion is Kindness.” That is clearly an oversimplification of the Christian faith (and the Buddhist faith as well), but it really does sum it up pretty succinctly: Kindness.

Recently we read a reflection in worship that reminded us that compassion is NOT feeling sorry for someone’s suffering. That is empathy. Compassion is not passive feeling but an action that takes empathy and gives it wings. Compassion is Kindness, and it’s the heart of the Gospel message. Over and again, we see examples of Jesus acting compassionately toward people who were treated as outsiders, or worse as pariahs in his world.

Matthew’s Gospel has been described as the message of “The Least, the Lost, and the Last.” Matthew’s entire gospel (directed at those in the Jewish community) was about the kindness and compassionate Jesus, reaching out to those around him.

That is our mission: Not having empathy, (recognizing someone’s suffering) or being nice to everyone. The mission of the Church is to be Christ and to make Christ known in the world around us. How do we do that? By making compassion and kindness an active part of our lives.

We do that at Grace Church every week! By providing a safe space for people who struggle in life. By living our call to be a justice seeking faith community and standing firm in that witness. By being silly in worship and making space for people to see and hear the Spirit moving in new ways through Broadway shows or other creative cultural means.

I thank you for the ways YOU make that difference in your church through your giving and your presence. Remember...all the faith in the world means nothing if we don’t become the presence of Christ for our world. How does that happen? Compassion. Our religion is Kindness!

Blessings,

Pastor Rob[†]

Pastor Rob[†]

Living Our

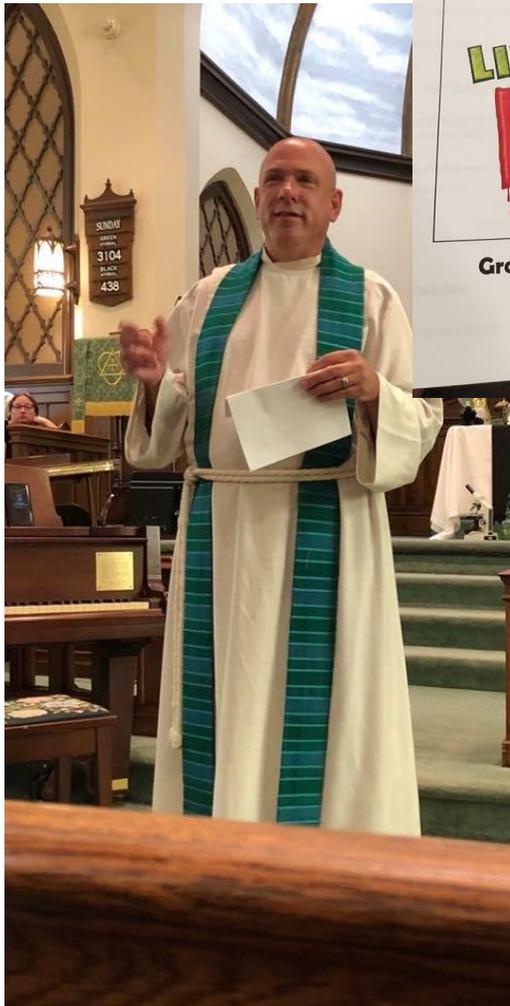


PRAYBILL
September on Broadway



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Grace United Church of Christ
September 16, 2018
11:00 a.m.

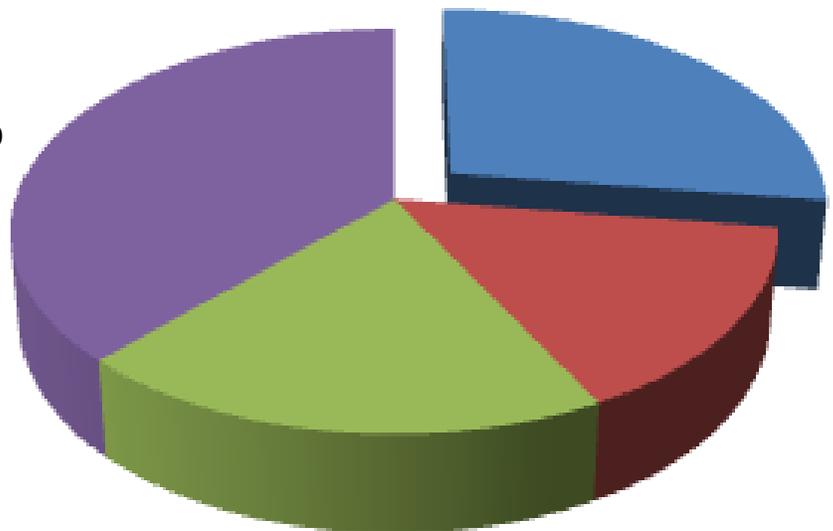


Worship & Music

It was a great year for worship and Music at Grace Church! Our Broadway series was back with an amazing look at Broadway: The Dark Side. On Sundays we have enjoyed various worship styles and services but unfortunately saw the last of our German services. If there is significant desire, they will be resurrected. Pastor Rob's sabbatical took a bite out of our summer, but we were blessed with guest pastors and now that fall is back, we are in full swing once again! This year we celebrated the return of the Grace Bell Choir under the direction of James Taylor! What a blessing! A grant was received recently that will enable us to upgrade our AV system to include broadcast live worship services on the internet and to use multimedia in our worship and communal life.

- Worship leadership
- Sermon preparation
- Senior Choir
- Joyful Noise Choir
- Music direction and leadership
- Guest musicians
- Communion and Baptisms
- Weddings and funerals
- Bulletins and other worship resources
- Pastoral support
- Administrative support

\$69,460.50



- Worship & Music
- Care & Nurture
- Service Beyond the Congregation
- Offering a Welcoming Space

27.5%

Living Our Faith...Loving Our World!

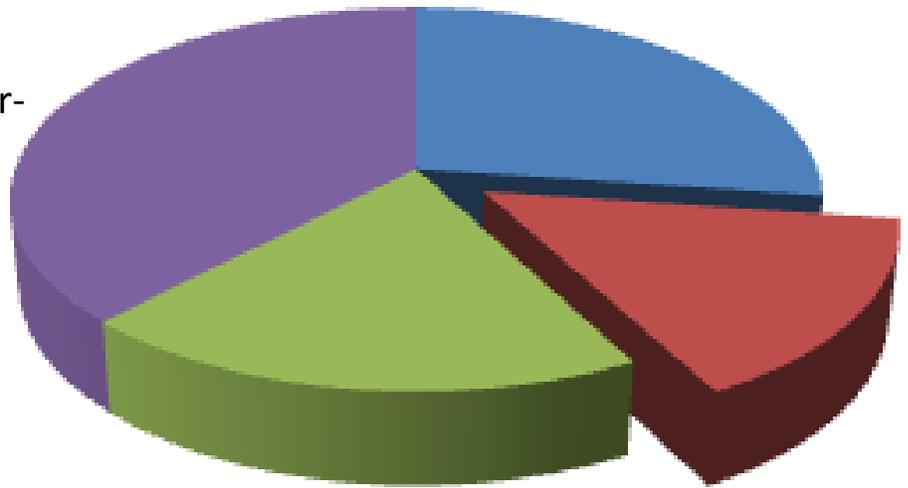


Care & Nurture

The care and nurture of our members and neighbors are very important activities at Grace Church. During the past year, we welcomed several new members into our Grace Church family! Christian Education classes for adults continue year-round, with special studies for Lent and Advent. We enjoyed a special Nepalese Meal and service to learn about Pastor Rob Sabbatical experience and our elementary-aged kids participate in Children’s Church during the second half of the worship service. Our nursery is available every Sunday for our smallest members and guests. Our new pastoral Associate, Jessica, has agreed to help lead the teens to be more intentional about having monthly activities for them. Grace’s Good Samaritan Fund has helped several parishioners in need, and our homebound members can depend on visits bringing communion

\$39,545.50

- Church School curricula
- Special Christian Education events
- Child Care
- Pastoral Counseling
- Visits to the hospitalized and homebound
- Congregational Life activities
- Weddings and funerals
- Newsletters
- Website information and maintenance
- Youth Activities
- Pastoral support
- Administrative support



- Worship & Music
- Care & Nurture
- Service Beyond the Congregation
- Offering a Welcoming Space

15.5%

Living Our Faith...Loving Our World!

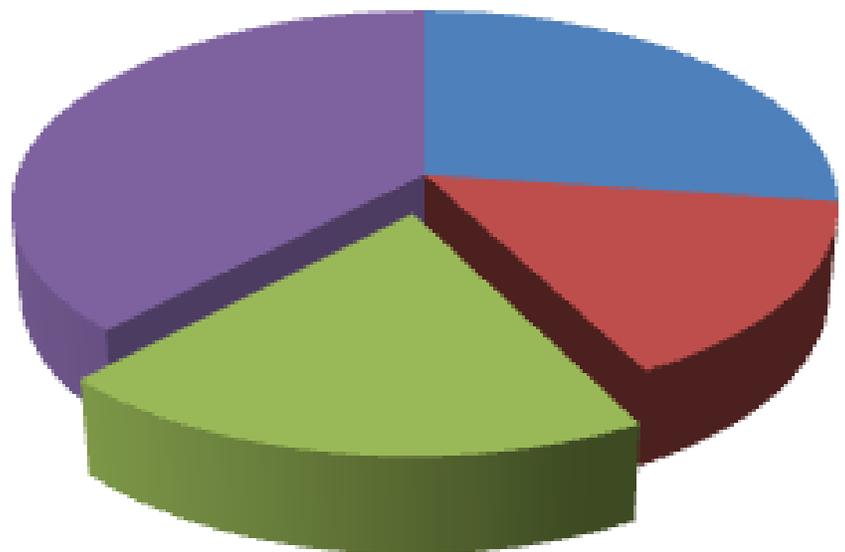


Service Beyond the Congregation

At Grace Church, we know that love of God is shown best through love of neighbor. As a people of God we are called to serve the world around us. We respond to that call with time, money and food for the work of our church beyond our walls – in our city, in our country, and in communities in need around the world. We serve at the Soup Kitchen and the Homeless Shelter, and we are a host site for the Emergency Family Shelter. We support our denomination’s programs for assistance both locally and throughout the world, and we participate in a number of programs with Church World Service. Included in this area of ministry:

- Our 5-for-5 UCC Special Offerings:
 - ◊ Our Church’s Wider Mission
 - ◊ One Great Hour of Sharing
 - ◊ Strengthen the Church
 - ◊ Neighbors in Need
 - ◊ The Christmas Fund
- Local missions:
 - ◊ Soup Kitchen/Food Bank
 - ◊ Habitat for Humanity
 - ◊ Heartly House
 - ◊ Hoffman Homes
 - ◊ Homewood
 - ◊ Mission of Mercy
 - ◊ The Frederick Center
 - ◊ The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs
- Church World Service support
- Conference and Association events
- Conference dues for each member
- Pastoral support
- Administrative support

\$50,585.50



- Worship & Music
- Care & Nurture
- Service Beyond the Congregation
- Offering a Welcoming Space

19.7%

Living Our Faith...Loving Our World!

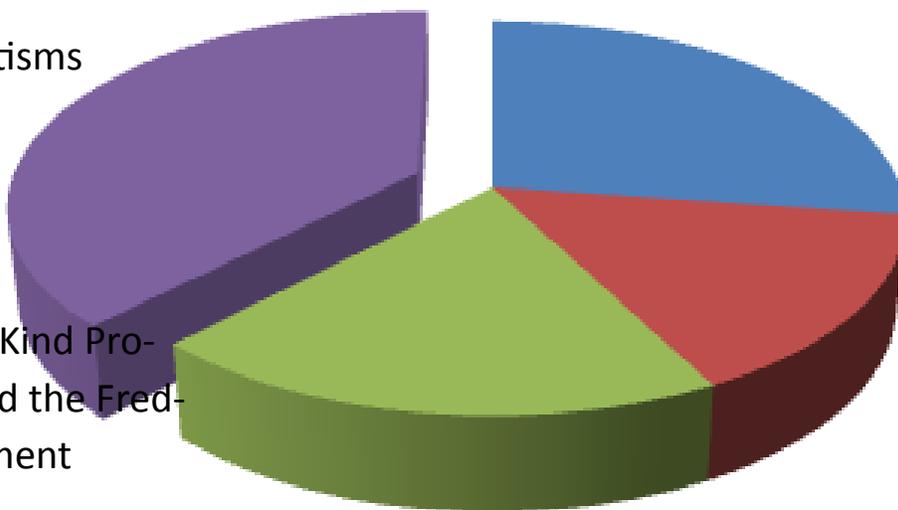


Offering a Welcoming Space

Our circa-1900 church at 25 East Second Street is the focal point of much of our ministry. In addition to our regular Sunday worship and Christian Education classes, our building houses meetings of church groups and other non-profit organizations throughout the week. We have a beautiful sanctuary with unique stained glass windows and exposed woodwork, staff offices, classrooms, a choir room, an up-to-date kitchen, and two large meeting areas. A chair lift makes the downstairs fellowship hall and rooms completely accessible to all. Maintenance of the building is overseen by, and much maintenance is performed by, a dedicated group of members who contribute their time and expertise to keep our building in good condition. This year our NA group closed for lack of attendance, but we are now the home to COIPP, a support group for the children of incarcerated parents!

- Sunday services and special events
- Meeting space for the Church Council and Committees
- Weddings, funerals and baptisms
- Christmas candlelight tours
- Office and storage space for The Frederick Center
- Meeting space for local non-profit groups, The ManKind Project, PFLAG, GAMMA, and the Frederick County Health Department
- A free drop-in Zumba class
- Redemption City Church worship services and events
- Housing for the Emergency Family Shelter
- Administrative support

\$95,901.85



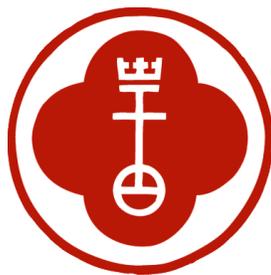
- Worship & Music
- Care & Nurture
- Service Beyond the Congregation
- Offering a Welcoming Space

37.3%

Grace United Church of Christ

25 East Second Street

Frederick, MD 21701



Grace United Church of Christ

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

admin@grucc.com ~ www.grucc.com

301-662-3312